

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel claim(s) 8 without prejudice.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A method for forming an electrical connector, the method comprising:

providing at least one electrical conductor comprising a first plurality of ribs;

jacketing said at least one electrical conductor with an electrical insulating material to form a connector body, wherein said first plurality of ribs defines a first tortuous path with said electrical insulating material for impeding the passage of fluid, said connector body comprising a second plurality of ribs for defining a second tortuous path for impeding passage of fluid between said connector body and a surrounding structure within which at least a portion of said connector body is disposed after said connector body is formed, wherein said second plurality of ribs comprise melt ribs formed when said second plurality of ribs is formed.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method as in claim 7, wherein said electrical insulating material comprises polyoxymethylene.

10. (Original) The method as in claim 7, wherein said fluid comprises a hydrocarbon based fuel.

11. (Original) The method as in claim 7, further comprising:

impregnating a coating onto the connector body.

12. (Original) The method as in claim 11, wherein said coating comprises dimethylacrylate.

Claims 13-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A method for forming a fuel flange, the method comprising:

providing at least one electrical conductor comprising a first plurality of ribs;

jacketing said at least one electrical conductor with an electrical insulating material to form a connector body, said first plurality of ribs defining a first tortuous path with said electrical insulating material for impeding the passage of hydrocarbon based fuel components, said connector body comprising a second plurality of ribs comprising a substantially uniform series of ribs looping around an exterior of the connector body; and,

molding said fuel flange around said connector body for forming a second tortuous path, said second plurality of ribs defining said second tortuous path for impeding passage of hydrocarbon based fuel components between said connector body and said fuel flange.

19. (Original) The method as in claim 18, where said second plurality of ribs comprises melt ribs.

20. (Original) The method as in claim 18, where said electrical insulating material comprises polyoxymethylene.

21. (Original) The method as in claim 18, further comprising:

impregnating a coating over said connector body.

22. (Original) The method as in claim 18, wherein said coating comprises dimethylacrylate.

Claims 23-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A method of forming a vehicle fuel tank combined fuel flange and electrical connector comprising:

molding a pre-mold housing onto a plurality of electrical conductors to form a pre-mold electrical connector, wherein the electrical conductors comprising ribs such that first tortuous joints are formed between the pre-mold housing and the electrical conductors; and

overmolding a flange member onto the pre-mold electrical connector, wherein the pre-mold housing comprises a series of circumferential ribs on an exterior side which form a second tortuous joint between the flange member and the pre-mold electrical connector.

26. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 25 wherein the step of overmolding comprises overmolding a portion of the flange member onto the electrical conductors.

27. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 25 wherein the electrical conductors comprise right angle contacts and the pre-mold housing is molded onto a bend of the right angle contacts.

28. (Currently amended) A method as in claim ~~25~~ 27 wherein the right angle contacts comprise a male contact portion at a first end and a flap contact portion at an opposite second end, and wherein the pre-mold housing is molded onto the flap contact portion.

29. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 25 wherein molding of the pre-mold housing comprises forming melt ribs on the ribs of the pre-mold housing.

30. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 25 further comprising impregnating the pre-mold housing with a sealing material.

31. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 30 wherein the step of impregnating occurs before the flange member is overmolded onto the pre-mold electrical connector.

32. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 30 wherein the step of impregnating comprises use of a material which remains substantially uncured in the presence of air.